



The Marist Brothers

ADVENT 2020



A Lumen Award-winning publication of the Province of the United States of America

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# TODAY'S Marist Brother

## Br. Sam Amos Professes Final Vows

The Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the Final Profession of Br. Sam Amos in October during a liturgy at Marist High School in Chicago, IL. Br. Sam is the son of David and Lori Amos, and received his first sacraments at the parish of Holy Family in Grand Blanc, MI.



Prior to entering the Marist Brothers, Sam graduated from Powers Catholic High School in Flint, MI, and from John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH with a bachelor's degree in classical languages. He also earned a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts.

In September 2013, Sam became a postulant to the Marist Brothers and lived in community at the Marist Brothers Novitiate in



Esopus, NY. In February 2014, Sam officially became a novice of the Marist Brothers during a ceremony in the chapel at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus. During his Novitiate, he was guided by Master of

Novices Br. Robert Clark, and mentored by Br. Phil Robert and Br. Brice Byczynski.

He was also joined by two novices from the Australian Province, Brothers James Hodge and Jack O'Sullivan.



Following his first profession in August 2015, Sam moved to the Bronx, NY, where he lived in a Marist Brothers community and taught



at Mount St. Michael Academy for one year. In 2016, he moved to the Leavitt Street community in Chicago and began working as a religion teacher

at Marist High School, where he continues to serve today. Br. Sam also enjoys volunteering and leading a youth group at St. Benedict Parish in Blue Island, IL.

Let us proceed to keep Sam in our prayers as he continues his life with the Marist

Brothers, and for all young people that they too may have the courage to listen to and follow God's calling in their lives.



FROM THE DESK OF

# the Provincial

ADVENT 2020

Dear Marist Family,

In the Gospel of the First Sunday of Advent, we hear Jesus's words, "Watch out! Be alert!" It seems that Jesus is adding more anxiety to this year—just what we don't need. Doesn't He realize everything we've been through? But of course, Jesus does. Isn't He always with us? Hasn't He been our rock, our strength, and our support as we have experienced 2020? And in this year's Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus's birth, let's look hopefully to the future and to grow even closer to God's love.



Along with the rest of the USA Marist Brothers, allow me to thank you for all of your generosity and support of our Brotherhood and mission. With God's help and Mary's protection, we have navigated the first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have continued to keep our ministries open and vital. We still bring the "Good News of Jesus Christ" to thousands of young people here in the United States and throughout our Marist world, even in these challenging times.

We are very grateful that God continues to call new members into our initial formation programs here and throughout the world. God has inspired and called many of our colleagues and friends into our USA Lay Marist program. Around the country, our Brothers and Marist lay colleagues strive to provide excellent, innovative, and effective educational programs within our schools and campus ministry programs.

Watching and experiencing all of your support and care throughout this year, we Marist Brothers realize that Christmas has not been cancelled this year, but the Christmas spirit and Marist spirit are very alive and well. Let's "watch out" that we don't forget this good news. Let's be very "alert" to celebrate and embrace the birth and life of Jesus Christ. May Mary's gift and God's glory bring healing, joy, and peace, especially to our young people and the most vulnerable among us.

You, our Marist Family, are in our prayers of gratitude as we place you in the compassionate hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Saint Marcellin Champagnat. God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Br. Patrick McNamara, FMS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Br. Patrick McNamara, FMS  
Provincial  
Marist Brothers USA Province

# MARIST FAMILY FUN DAY AT ESOPUS

Written by: Maureen Hagan, Director of Adult Formation and Lay Marists USA



This year has been very different for the Marist Brothers Center (MBCE) in Esopus, NY, as COVID-19 restrictions have hindered groups from gathering for retreats, summer camps, and meetings for the last few months.

In October, about 25 Lay Marists from the New York and New Jersey area gathered at the MBCE to enjoy one another's

(socially distanced) company, as well as the beautiful fall scenery in Esopus. Faculty from Mount St. Michael Academy (Bronx, NY), Archbishop Molloy High School (Briarwood, NY), St. Joseph High School (Montvale, NJ), and Roselle Catholic High School (Roselle, NJ) were represented and joined by family members and friends.



Each group was welcomed by a snack table of hot apple cider, hot chocolate, cider donuts, and a big bowl of freshly picked apples from the Apple Bin. Golf cart tours and walks to the river were next on the agenda.

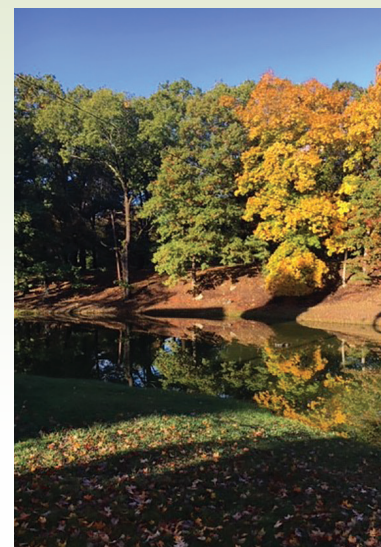


The highlight of the afternoon was a hayride, courtesy of Tomas O'Riordan, the new Director of Operations at the MBCE, who pulled the hay-filled wagon with the property tractor. It was a gorgeous ride through the woody grounds of the center, highlighting the changing leaves near the river, the Marist Brothers' cemetery, and the pool.

Later in the afternoon, the entire group gathered for a prayer by the pond. Using "Simple Gifts" as a theme, attendees celebrated the beautiful day and prayed in gratitude.

In spite of the ongoing daily struggles with COVID-19, we acknowledged and thanked our God for the blessings of our lives, even in these difficult times.

By sunset, a campfire was burning in the firepit, and the group gathered to reflect on the day.



# Two New Postulants for the Marist Brothers USA Province

**J**n September, the Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the entry of Robert Dittus and Ryan Richter to the Marist Brothers Postulancy Program in the Bronx, NY.

Robert Dittus is a graduate of Marist-owned Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, NY and spent one year volunteering at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, NY. Ryan Richter spent time living at the Marist Community of Welcome in Austin, TX, a community of lay people and Marist Brothers that was started in 2018.

Br. Brian Poulin, FMS, Vocations Director for the Marist Brothers in the USA, has said, “Young men continue to join the Marist Brothers because they see our joyful Gospel witness and are drawn by our mission to serve young people in need. God is still calling new Marists to follow Christ as Mary did—he may even be calling somebody you know! If you know somebody who may be well-suited to the life of a Marist Brother, please encourage him to learn more about us and to get in touch if he feels moved to do so.”



# An Update from the Marist Community of Welcome in Austin, Texas

Written by: Br. Robert Clark, FMS



The past year has been both a grace-filled and challenging one for our Province's newest community. We have been a community of anywhere from four to seven members. Our hope to welcome young adults (and Brothers!) into our home has been, by necessity, greatly curtailed. Yet the charisma of St. Marcellin and the Marist Brothers continues to find new forms of expression here in Austin.

The basic structure of community life remains. We pray together each morning (Monday-Thursday), usually using the Prayer of Christians. Marist Monday is a solid commitment we've made to each other, where a special meal is prepared by two of the community members

and where we have prayer and a conversation on how we're doing both personally and as a community. Other evenings we have a shared meal and evening prayer for those who are around. The structure is embellished by the more spontaneous: game/movie nights, weekend BBQs, heading out into Austin for ice cream, or a (socially distant) social hour.

Following a community discussion and decision, we have welcomed some family members, or close friends again, being careful to follow all of the COVID-19 safety restrictions. We have also been welcoming new members to the community for a limited period of time. The image Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General of the Marist Brothers Institute, used in his circular, "Homes of Light," seems to describe how our community has evolved and how attractive it has become for young adults.



## IN MEMORIAM

*Br. Robert Andrews*

Died April 7, 2020



He was 71 years old.

Br. Robert Andrews, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for nearly 50 years, died April 7, 2020 at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

Br. Bob joined the Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood, NY, in 1975 and served there for over 40 years. He taught social studies and religion while also enjoying a nearly 50-year coaching career between his time at St. Helen's and Molloy. He was a passionate track and field and cross country coach who helped countless Stanners tap into their full potential. He retired from teaching in 2015, but remained on Molloy's coaching staff during his retirement.

During Br. Bob's tenure, Stanner teams won a New York state cross-country championship and 17 New York City

Catholic indoor and outdoor titles, as well as over 75 Brooklyn/Queens Catholic sectional championships. Under Br. Bob's tutelage, Molloy athletes won three Catholic individual cross country races and 11 New York state individual titles.

Br. Bob attended St. Peter's High School for Boys and ran for Coach John Tobin. He was cross country captain at Marist College, where he graduated with a degree in history in 1969. Br. Bob completed his master's degree in religious studies at Webster College.

*Continued on page 7*

# Christmas Greetings!



**M**y feelings as I write to you, our many friends and benefactors, are those of thanks. Thanks for the generosity you have shown to the Marist Brothers, the care you express for our elderly and disabled Brothers, and your enthusiastic support of our educational and evangelical work with youth.

These times we are living in are not easy...we know that. The current state of our country and the world make charitable giving decisions difficult ones. We know that you are interested in many worthwhile causes and we want you to know that the Brothers are most grateful for your support.

Your gifts to the Marist Brothers Annual Fund each year generously provide a groundwork of general support as well as furthering those special projects that need funding during the year.

Ongoing concern for our elderly and disabled Brothers is a duty which St. Marcellin Champagnat considered a blessing. You may also have the experience of caring for an elderly loved one in your own family and know the diverse and sometimes pressing needs that can arise. We have the same needs—and your blessings of support through our annual retirement appeal greatly help us meet those responsibilities.

As Christmas approaches, we want you to know that through your unselfish support, we know we are not alone. We are surrounded by your care and concern. You have become members of our extended Marist Family, and like all families, we care for each other. Please know you are remembered in the daily prayers of all our Marist Brothers.

Our very best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas season. Surround yourselves with the peace, love, and joy of family and friends. And may the New Year ahead be filled with happiness and good health.

**Merry Christmas!**

*Paulette M. Karas*

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE  
Director of Development

# IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 5

## Br. Leo Shea

Died June 3, 2020



Br. Leo Shea, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 68 years, died on June 3, 2020, at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, NY. He was 85 years old.

Br. Leo became a postulant with the Marist Brothers in 1951 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1952. He professed first vows in 1953, perpetual vows in 1958, and the vow of stability in 1969.

Br. Leo was universally loved and cherished by his fellow Marist Brothers, family members, colleagues, and former students. During his life as a Marist Brother he was elected and served in Provincial leadership of the Marist Brothers' Esopus Province for many

years. He also had an extraordinary career as a Marist educator, administrator, counselor, and teacher while serving at Marist High School (Bayonne, NJ), St. Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX), John A. Coleman High School (Kingston, NY), Our Lady of Lourdes High School (Poughkeepsie, NY), and Bishop Carroll High School (Ebensburg, PA). Br. Leo was a founding member of the USA Marist Mission to Liberia, West Africa, and was the Founder of Guadalupe Regional Middle School, in Brownsville, TX.

## Br. Brendan Brennan

Died October 19, 2020



Br. Brendan Brennan, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 64 years, died on October 19, 2020, at Morningside Nursing Home in the Bronx, NY. He was 84 years old.

New York City. He became a postulant with the Marist Brothers in 1955 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate at Poughkeepsie, New York in 1956.

He professed first vows in 1957. After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, he began his ministry serving as a teacher at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx from 1960–62. He also served as a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie NY (1962–65), Mount St. Michael Academy (1965–72), Lincoln Hall, Lincolnville, NY (1972–74), Central Catholic High School, Lawrence, MA

(1974–85), Marist High School in Eugene, OR (1985–92), and Marist High School in Chicago, IL (1992–2011).

He professed his final vows in 1962 and earned a master's degree in religious studies from Fordham University in 1969.

Br. Brendan retired to the Marist Brothers Monastery community in Chicago in 2011. He remained there until 2018, when he moved for medical reasons to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx.

Br. Brendan was born in the Bronx. He attended St. Anne's Academy in

## Br. Eugene Trzeciecki

Died October 26, 2020



Br. Eugene Trzeciecki, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 73 years, died October 26, 2020, in Miami, FL, less than one month from his 92nd birthday.

Brothers in 1946 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate at Poughkeepsie, NY in 1947. He professed first vows in 1948. After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, he began his ministry serving as a teacher at St. Ann's Academy and Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood, NY, from 1950–64. He served as the Master of Novices for the Marist Brothers in Esopus, NY from 1965–68 and enjoyed a long teaching career at Christopher Columbus High School, Miami, FL, from 1968–2011. At Christopher Columbus, Br. Eugene served as Academic Dean, Treasurer, and teacher of Latin, philosophy, humanities, and English. He was also a key leader in extra-curricular activities, moderating the National Honor Society for 25 years,

creating the school's Student Activities Committee, and founding the Columbus Arts Society for Adults.

He professed his final vows in 1963 and the vow of stability in 1965. He also earned a master's degree in Greek and Latin language studies from Hunter College and was an accomplished author of numerous books. For years, he oversaw the gardening and landscaping of the school's campus, a job he loved because of his great passion for nature.

He retired to the Marist Brothers community on the Christopher Columbus campus in 2011 and remained an active volunteer and witness of faith and fidelity at the school until shortly before his death.

Br. Eugene was born in New Jersey, grew up as a member of St. Patrick's parish in Brooklyn, and attended St. Ann's Academy in New York City. He became a postulant with the Marist

**Real Brothers.  
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### **The Marist Brothers Mission**

To bring Christian education to young people, especially those who are most neglected.  
*(Article 2, Constitutions)*

### **The Marist Brothers**

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Editorial Staff: Ms. Erin Gilbert. Contributing Staff: Br. Robert Clark, Maureen Hagan

## *The Marist Brothers* **Remembrance in Prayer Program**



**T**he Marist Brothers offer two different series of Remembrance in Prayer cards: Traditional and All-Occasion cards. Our signature Traditional cards feature the image of Christ and a Marial design. Both of these Traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two All-Occasion cards may be sent to honor birthdays, weddings, or anniversaries or to extend get-well greetings.

All cards carry a special promise of Remembrance in Prayer from the Marist Brothers. We would be delighted to send you a complimentary packet of our Traditional or All-Occasion cards. Please send your request through email ([maristbr@maristbr.org](mailto:maristbr@maristbr.org)) or to the mailing address at left.